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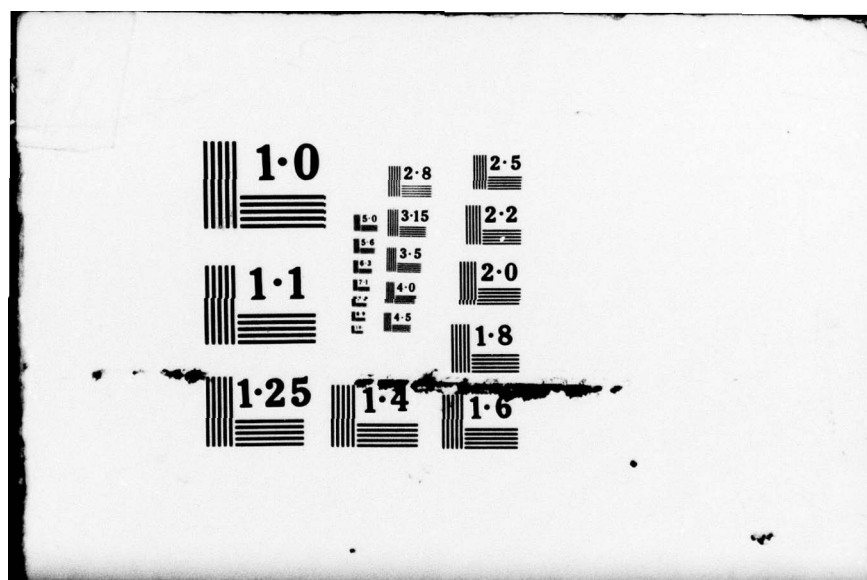
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SELF DIFFUSION IN CELLS AND TISSUES
ANNUAL REPORT NO. 4

by
John E. Tanner, Jr.

Naval Weapons Support Center
Applied Sciences Department
Crane, IN 47522



1 January 1979

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Final Report for Period 1 October 1977 to 31 December 1978

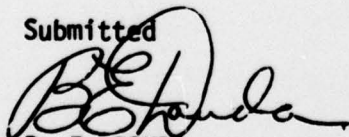
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Prepared for:
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Submitted

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'B. E. Douda', written over the printed name.

B. E. DOUDA

Manager, Chemical Sciences Branch
Pyrotechnic Division
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20. ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number) A general treatment of time-dependent (transient) diffusion coefficients in a system of parallel planar barriers of arbitrary permeability has been published in J. Chem. Phys. 69, 1748 (1978). Measurements of self diffusion of water and of membrane permeability to water in red blood cells, frog muscle, E. coli, and a literature review of previous measurements have been submitted for publication to Biophysical Journal.		

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BACKGROUND AND PROGRESS

Magnetic field gradient NMR is well adapted to measuring diffusion in colloidal systems, including biological cells, because the experimental measurement times by this method are such that the distances traveled by the molecules are of the same order as the dimensions of the inhomogeneities of the system. The result is that the apparent diffusion coefficients are dependent on the diffusion time. By varying this latter parameter the dimensions of the inhomogeneities as well as the local diffusion coefficients within them can be obtained.

The maximum information is obtained by the use of the widest possible range of diffusion times. In previously reported work,^{1,2} a variety of recently developed techniques have been used to get a much wider range of diffusion times than had been employed in earlier studies of diffusion in biological materials. Intracellular diffusion coefficients have been measured in human red cells, three types of frog muscle, *E. coli* and yeast cells. It was also possible to estimate the cell membrane permeability in the first two cases.

This work has been presented at several national scientific society meetings. It has since been written up and has recently been submitted to the Biophysical Journal under the title, "Intracellular Diffusion of Water; Measurements and Review". The review implied by the title covered all measurements of diffusion coefficients of water in cells by magnetic field gradient methods (pulsed or cw) up to 1977. The reported measurements cover over a dozen types of plant and animal tissues and single cell types. The values extend to as low as 1/5 the value of pure water, in contrast to some ESR measurements of free radical line widths, which

imply much lower diffusion rates.³ Additional details and discussion are contained in a report presented earlier in the year.⁴

The experimental data for diffusion measurements in cellular systems usually consists of apparent diffusion coefficients over a range of diffusion times. In order to extract the intracellular diffusion coefficient and the barrier separation and permeability from this data it is necessary to know the functional form of the dependence of apparent diffusion coefficient on diffusion time for the geometry under consideration (or for a similar one). Most cells have highly permeable membranes. However there had not been in the literature a derivation of transient diffusion in a viscous medium for any geometry involving permeable barriers. Therefore a derivation was performed for the case of parallel planar geometry. The essentials of the results are contained in a previous report,⁵ and were presented as poster W-POS-K2 at the March 1978 joint meeting of the Biophysical Society and the American Physical Society in Washington D. C. A complete report has been written and has appeared in J. Chem. Phys. 69, 1748 (1978), entitled "Transient Diffusion in a System Partitioned by Permeable Barriers. Application to NMR Measurements with a Pulsed Field Gradient".

The parallel plane case in one dimension is identical to the case of a cubical array in three dimensions, and is probably a good first approximation to the general case of spheres packed into polyhedra. Therefore, the results of this derivation should be valuable for interpreting NMR diffusion data on many biological samples of tissues or pellets of centrifuged single cells. The parameters obtained by applying this theory to the experimental systems mentioned earlier seemed reasonable, and were in agreement with such literature values

as existed.

PLANS FOR FUTURE WORK

Minor modifications have been made to the pulsed gradient apparatus for greater reliability and ease of operation. A wide variety of cell types furnished by faculty of the Chemistry and Biology Departments of Indiana University are scheduled for measurements due to take place in March. Included are attempts to measure intracellular diffusion of substances other than water.

I have accepted an invitation to collaborate with Professor R. Kosfeld of the Technical University of Aachen on a review paper on the use of NMR to study diffusion.

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